**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (currently amended) A screening apparatus for screening a particulate material composed of particles of different size, said apparatus including:

a screen frame having an open bottom through which screened particles can pass;

a plurality of banks of blades supported on the screen frame; each bank having a plurality of evenly spaced blades arranged in a row and rotatable about a respective axis, the axes being parallel to each other, with adjacent banks of blades axially offset relative to each other so that the blades of one bank alternate with the blades of an adjacent bank, and wherein at least one bank of blades is linearly slidable along its axis of rotation to provide a predetermined amount of axial freeplay and where ~~a sizing gap is~~gaps are formed between mutually adjacent blades of adjacent banks;

wherein, when the blades are rotated and a particulate material is placed on the blades, the rotating blades agitate and/or crush the material to allow particles of a size equal to or smaller than ~~the~~an adjacent sizing gap to pass between the blades and through the open bottom.

2. (previously presented) A screening apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the blades are juxtaposed so that the blades on one bank extend transversely between the adjacent blades of an adjacent bank.

3. (currently amended) A screening apparatus according to claim 2 wherein said blades are configured and juxtaposed so that if the blades of one bank were directly opposite the blades of an adjacent bank the opposed ~~blade~~ blades would intermesh.

4. (previously presented) A screening apparatus according to claim 3 wherein said screen frame is in the form of a bottomless scoop or bucket adapted for coupling to an earthmoving vehicle whereby said vehicle can be controlled to manipulate said scoop or bucket to scoop particulate material into said screen frame and/or elevate said screen frame above the ground while said blades are rotated.

5. (currently amended) A screening apparatus according to claim 4 further including one or more hydraulic motors for driving said banks ~~to~~ of blades, said motors being supported on said screen frame and wherein hydraulic fluid for said motors is derived from said earthmoving vehicle.

6. (new) A screening apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising first and second sets of plates,

said first set of plates being positioned between a first side of said frame and a first bank of blades adjacent said first side of said frame, each plate in said first set of plates being disposed between adjacent blades on said first bank of blades,

said second set of plates being positioned between a second side of said frame and a second bank of blades adjacent said second side of said frame, each plate in said second set of plates being disposed between adjacent blades on said second bank of blades.

7. (new) A screening apparatus for screening a particulate material composed of particles of different size, said apparatus comprising:

a screen frame having an open bottom through which screened particles can pass;

a plurality of banks of blades supported on the screen frame; each bank having a plurality of evenly spaced blades arranged in a row and rotatable about a respective axis, the axes being parallel to each other, and the blades in every row lying in respective planes that are perpendicular to the axes, with adjacent banks of blades axially offset relative to each other so that the blades of one bank alternate with the blades of an adjacent bank, and wherein at least one bank of blades is linearly slidable along its axis of rotation to provide a predetermined amount of axial freeplay and where a sizing gap is formed between mutually adjacent blades of adjacent banks;

wherein, when the blades are rotated and a particulate material is placed on the blades, the rotating blades agitate and/or crush the material to allow particles of a size equal to or smaller than the sizing gap to pass between the blades and through the open bottom.

8. (new) The screening apparatus according to claim 7 wherein the blades are juxtaposed so that the blades on one bank extend transversely between the adjacent blades of an adjacent bank.

9. (new) The screening apparatus according to claim 8 wherein said blades are configured and juxtaposed so that if the blades of one bank were directly opposite the blades of an adjacent bank the opposed blades would intermesh.

10. (new) The screening apparatus according to claim 9 wherein said screen frame is in the form of a bottomless scoop or bucket adapted for coupling to an earthmoving vehicle whereby said vehicle can be controlled to manipulate said scoop or bucket to scoop particulate material into said screen frame and/or elevate said screen frame above the ground while said blades are rotated.

11. (new) The screening apparatus according to claim 10 further comprising one or more hydraulic motors for driving said banks of blades, said motors being supported on said screen frame and wherein hydraulic fluid for said motors is derived from said earthmoving vehicle.

12. (new) A screening apparatus for screening a particulate material composed of particles of different size, said apparatus comprising:

a screen frame having an open bottom through which screened particles can pass;

a plurality of banks of blades supported on the screen frame; each bank having a plurality of evenly spaced blades arranged in a row and rotatable about a respective axis, the axes being parallel to each other, with adjacent banks of blades axially offset relative to each other so that the blades of one bank alternate with the blades of an adjacent bank, and wherein at least one bank of blades comprises a sleeve mounted on an axle having a longitudinal axis coincident with the axis of rotation of a corresponding bank of blades, the sleeve rotationally fixed to the axle and slideable linearly along the axle to provide a predetermined amount of axial freeplay and where a sizing gap is formed between mutually adjacent blades of adjacent banks;

wherein, when the blades are rotated and a particulate material is placed on the blades, the rotating blades agitate and/or crush the material to allow particles of a size equal to or smaller than the sizing gap to pass between the blades and through the open bottom.

13. (new) The screening apparatus according to claim 12 wherein the blades in each row lie in respective planes that are perpendicular to the axes.

14. (new) The screening apparatus according to claim 13 wherein the blades are juxtaposed so that the blades on one bank extend transversely between the adjacent blades of an adjacent bank.

15. (new) The screening apparatus according to claim 14 wherein said blades are configured and juxtaposed so that if the blades of one bank were directly opposite the blades of an adjacent bank the opposed blades would intermesh.

16. (new) The screening apparatus according to claim 15 wherein said screen frame is in the form of a bottomless scoop or bucket adapted for coupling to an earthmoving vehicle whereby said vehicle can be controlled to manipulate said scoop or bucket to scoop particulate material into said screen frame and/or elevate said screen frame above the ground while said blades are rotated.

17. (new) The screening apparatus according to claim 16 further comprising one or more hydraulic motors for driving said banks of blades, said motors being supported on said screen frame and wherein hydraulic fluid for said motors is derived from said earthmoving vehicle.

18. (new) A method of screening particulate material, comprising:

rotating a plurality of banks of blades supported on a screen frame, said screen frame having an open bottom through which screened particles can pass, each of said banks having a plurality of blades arranged in a row and rotatable about a respective axis, the axes being parallel to each other, with adjacent banks of blades axially offset relative to each other so that the blades of one bank alternate with the blades of an adjacent bank, and wherein at least one bank of blades is linearly slidable along its axis of rotation to provide a predetermined amount of axial freeplay and where sizing gaps are formed between mutually adjacent blades of adjacent banks; and

placing particulate material on said blades, whereby the rotating blades agitate and/or crush the material to allow particles of a size equal to or smaller than an adjacent sizing gap to pass between the blades and through the open bottom.

19. (new) A method as recited in claim 18, wherein blades in each of said banks are spaced evenly.

20. (new) A method as recited in claim 18, wherein said rotating a plurality of banks of blades is initiated before said placing particulate material on said blades.

21. (new) A method as recited in claim 18, wherein said rotating a plurality of banks of blades is initiated substantially simultaneously with said placing particulate material on said blades.

22. (new) A method as recited in claim 18, wherein said rotating a plurality of banks of blades is initiated after said placing particulate material on said blades.